

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

All claims currently pending and under consideration in the present application are shown below. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-17 (Previously Cancelled).

18. (Currently Amended) A system in a computer environment for teaching critical thinking skills to a learner, said system comprising:

a content module operable to receive and store informational content and to provide said content to said learner;

a query module operable to receive and store questions and to provide said questions to said learner, and further operable to receive and store said learner's answers to said questions and said learner's justifications for said answers, said learner's answers and said learner's justifications entered by said learner on a single electronic page and submitted simultaneously by said learner using said single electronic page;

a coach module ~~operable~~ is invokable by the learner to provide said learner with information before said learner submits said answers and said justifications to offer criteria that assists said learner in formulating said learner's answers and said learner's justifications, wherein said criteria provides detail related to the subject matter of each of the questions respectively;

an analysis module operable to analyze learner answers and justifications in order to form at least one result and to provide said at least one result to said learner;

an expert module operable to receive and store an expert's answers and justifications and to provide said expert answers and justifications to said learner, wherein the expert comprises an expert in the field of the questions and is distinct from the learner; and

a learner interface module operate to provide a connection between said learner and said system and to facilitate the learner's interaction with other learners that have provided other answers and justifications to the questions.

19. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 18 further comprising a reference module operable to receive and store reference material and to provide said reference material to said learner, wherein the reference module is invocable prior to the learner providing the answer such that, when invoked, the reference module reveals the reference material that is pertinent to the question presently being offered.

20. (Original) The system of claim 18 further comprising an interaction module operable to allow said learner to interact with other learners' answers and justifications.

21. (Original) The system of claim 20 wherein said interaction module is operable to display all learners' answers to said question and the justifications for these answers.

22. (Original) The system of claim 20 wherein said interaction module is operable to e-mail a comment from said learner to another learner.

23. (Original) The system of claim 18 further comprising a progress report module operable to provide said learner with information indicative of said learner's progress through said informational content and said questions.

24. (Original) The system of claim 18 further including an author interface operable to provide a connection between an author and said system.

25. (Original) The system of claim 24 further comprising a features module operable to receive feature selections from said author and to store said selections.

26. (Original) The system of claim 24 further comprising a learner feedback module operable to allow the author to select the information that the system will provide to said learner concerning said learner's answers and justifications.

27. (Original) The system of claim 24 further comprising a data reporting module that is operable to allow the author to determine the information he or she will receive concerning the learners' answers and justifications.

28. (Original) The system of claim 18 wherein said content, query and expert module store information in a database.

29. (Original) The system of claim 18 wherein said analysis module is a spreadsheet application.

30. (Original) The system of claim 18 wherein said analysis module is operable to perform statistical analysis.

31. (Original) The system of claim 18 wherein said content module provides said informational content and said query module provides said question as part of a first electronic page and said analysis module provides said at least one result as part of a second electronic page.

32. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 18 wherein at least one of said modules contains Hypertext Markup Language instructions.

33. (Currently Amended) A system in a computer environment for teaching critical thinking skills to a learner, said system comprising:

a computer readable medium containing computer readable code thereon for teaching critical thinking skills to a learner, said computer readable code comprising:

computer readable code devices configured to cause a computer to transmit informational content and a question associated with said informational content over a communications network to a client computer;

computer readable code devices configured to cause a computer to receive and store an answer and a justification over a communications network from said client computer, said answer and said justification entered by said learner on a single electronic page and submitted simultaneously from said client computer using said single electronic page;

computer readable code devices ~~configured~~ invokable by the learner to cause a computer to transmit coaching information to said learner to offer criteria that assists said learner in formulating said answer and said justification, said coaching information transmittable to said learner before said learner submits said

answer and said justification, wherein said criteria provides detail pertinent to the subject matter of the question;

computer readable code devices configured to cause a computer to perform an analysis of said stored answers and justifications and provide a result;

computer readable code devices configured to cause a computer to transmit said result over a communications network to said client computer; and

computer readable code devices configured to cause a computer to transmit an expert answer and justification over a communications network to said client computer, wherein the expert comprises an expert in the field of the questions and is distinct from the learner.

34. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 33 wherein said computer readable code further includes computer readable code devices for receiving a resource selection over said communication network from said client computer and for transmitting resource information over said communications network to said client computer.

35. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 33 wherein said computer readable code further includes computer readable code devices for receiving an interaction selection over said communications network from said client computer and for transmitting the answers and justifications of all learners over said communications network to said client computer.

36. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 35 wherein said computer readable code further includes computer readable code devices for receiving a comment about another learner's answer and justification over said communications network from said client

computer and for transmitting said comment to an e-mail account associated with said other learner.

37. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 33 wherein said computer readable code further includes computer readable code devices for receiving and storing information content, questions and expert answers and justifications.

38. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 33 wherein said informational content and said question are transmitted as part of a first electronic page and said result is transmitted as part of a second electronic page.

39. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 38 wherein said expert answer and justification is transmitted as part of said second electronic page.

40. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 33 wherein said computer readable code further includes computer readable code devices for obtaining data relating to site usage, learner characteristics, site performance, or learner motivation and transmitting said data to a second client computer.

41. (Currently Amended) A method in a computing environment for teaching critical thinking skills, said method comprising:

providing informational content and a prompt concerning said informational content to a learner;

receiving from said learner a response to said prompt and a justification for said response, said response and said justification entered by said learner on a single electronic page and submitted simultaneously by said learner using said single electronic page

providing said learner with access to assistance from a teacher before said learner submits said response and said justification, wherein the assistance is invokable by the learner prior to submitting the answer and provides details pertinent to subject matter of the prompt;

conducting an analysis involving said response, said analysis providing at least one result;

providing said at least one result to said learner; and

providing said learner with access to a response of an expert and a justification from said expert, wherein the expert comprises an expert in the field of the questions and is distinct from the learner.

42. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 41, further comprising providing reference material to said learner, said reference material designed to assist said learner in forming said response and said justification.

43. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, wherein said reference material includes an electronic link to a Web site containing background information concerning said informational content.

44. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 41, wherein said informational content and said prompt are presented as part of a first electronic page and said at least one result is presented as part of a second electronic page.

45. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 41, wherein said response and said justification are entered by said learner on a single electronic page.

46. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 41, further comprising allowing said learner to interact with the responses and justifications of other learners.

47. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 41, wherein said informational content is a writing sample.

48. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 41, wherein said informational content comprises audio.

49. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 41, wherein said informational content comprises video.

50. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 41, wherein said response is a numerical rating.